

funding will allow the Ozark Heritage Region to expand their entrepreneurship education and business counseling.

Requesting Member: JO ANN EMERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3170

Account: SBA—Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Downtown West Plains, Inc., West Plains, MO

Address of Requesting Entity: 401 Jefferson Ave., West Plains, MO 65775

Description of Request: \$500,000 is provided for Downtown West Plains, Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation, to complete the exterior and interior renovation of a 100 year old building which will house a Small Business Incubator. These funds will be matched with \$1,144,000 in local, state, and other federal funds. The Ozarks Small Business Incubator, when completed, will provide personalized assistance to small business entrepreneurs by supporting their efforts with business related education, financial guidance, business plan development, mentoring, and access to tangible resources such as building space, shipping dock, and shared office equipment.

Requesting Member: JO ANN EMERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3170

Account: SBA—Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Girl Scouts of the USA, New York, NY

Address of Requesting Entity: 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

Description of Request: \$101,000 is provided to the Girl Scouts of the USA for a national program to improve financial literacy. These funds will allow for the research and development necessary to prepare the foundation for a financial educational program directed towards girls.

A TRIBUTE TO MAMIE NICHOLS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Mamie Nichols, a pioneering activist and community organizer for more than 60 years, who died July 1 at the age of 91. Born Mamie Melton in Norfolk, Virginia her family moved to Philadelphia and settled in the Point Breeze section of South Philadelphia when she was a young child.

She grew up in Point Breeze and married and raised her six children in Point Breeze. But her 88-block neighborhood had been given a death sentence by officials in the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development. Mamie Nichols said she was told by city officials that Point Breeze could not be saved from urban decay and the city was letting it die a natural death.

But Mamie Nichols fought back. Fueled with anger, pride, determination and charm, Mrs. Nichols is credited with saving her neglected community. She founded the Point Breeze Federation and she was a prime mover in the founding of the Childs Elementary School Home and School Association. Her organization established the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center and transformed the long shuttered Landreth School into senior citizens apartments and a community center. She was also named to the Philadelphia Planning Commission and served as a member of the board

of Directors of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia Green and the Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition. And, along her journey she planted flowers in what was to be the greening of Point Breeze.

Mamie Nichols is remembered with deep love and respect by what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. referred to as the beloved community.

HONORING CONSUL GENERAL AT THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL IN MATAMOROS, MEXICO, MRS. CECILIA BRIDGET ELIZONDO HERRERA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Matamoros, Mexico, Mrs. Cecilia Bridget Elizondo Herrera, who leaves her post on the U.S.-Mexico border for a new task in Caracas, Venezuela.

Mrs. Elizondo Herrera is a native of San Antonio, Texas, and graduated from Incarnate Word High School in 1973. She went on to graduate from Our Lady of the Lake University where she received her bachelor of arts degree in English and political science in 1977. Mrs. Elizondo Herrera went on to complete post-graduate work at St. Mary's University in 1978 and in 2006 earned a master of science degree in national security strategy from the National War College at Ft. McNair in Washington, D.C.

At a young age, Mrs. Elizondo Herrera began her public service to this country when she worked for the Alamo Area Council of Governments, a regional planning agency in San Antonio, and in 1987 joined the Foreign Service as a junior officer in the Administrative Zone. She has served as a Vice Consul in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Administrative Officer and Post Security Officer in Melbourne, Australia. She was then stationed in Washington, D.C., where she served as an Area Manager for the Office of Foreign Buildings with oversight for near East Asia; as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Administration, with a portfolio of Overseas Buildings Operations and as a Post Management Officer for the European Bureau with responsibility for the Russian Federation and Finland.

Mrs. Elizondo Herrera has traveled throughout Russia, North Africa and the Arabian Gulf while stationed in Washington. She has served as the Deputy Supervisory GSO at the U.S. Embassy in Rome and Administrative Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

She is a four time recipient of the Department of State Superior Honor Award, and is the recipient of a Meritorious Honor Award in recognition of Non-Immigrant Visa work in Guadalajara.

Mrs. Elizondo Herrera is a member of Executive Women in Government, the National Association of Female Executives and an honorary member of the American Association for Justice Women's Auxiliary. She is the daughter of John P. and Beatrice B. Elizondo of San Antonio, Texas, and is married to San Antonio attorney, Frank Herrera, Jr. They have two sons, Jorge and Javier.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the dedication of Mrs. Cecilia Bridget Elizondo Herrera, who has served this nation with dignity, honor, respect and admiration.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF LEONARD E. BRISCOE, SR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Leonard Briscoe who passed away on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at the age of 69.

Mr. Briscoe was a trailblazer in the African American community in North Texas. In 1971, he was elected to the Fort Worth City Council, making him the second African American to serve in this position. A few short years later, in 1976, he was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives where he served during the 65th Legislature and chaired the Select Committee on Minority Business Enterprise.

As a businessman, advocate, and engaged citizen, Mr. Briscoe was acutely aware of the needs of the minority communities in North Texas. In a period of political turmoil, he encouraged other African Americans to become involved in the political process and was a leading advocate for affirmative action. He understood the dire consequences of inadequate housing for low-income families, and served as Chairman of the Fort Worth Community Development Council. Through this chairmanship, he helped to develop the city's first housing program funded by the Housing of Urban Development Department under the Community Development Act of 1974.

After leaving the Texas State House of Representatives, Mr. Briscoe continued his work to ensure that low-income people and minorities had access to respectable and affordable housing. His business built over twenty housing developments in the Southern part of the country with the help of over \$13 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Because of this, the Department named him "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 1984.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in remembering the life and work of Leonard Briscoe, a community organizer, activist, and entrepreneur, who helped so many people across North Texas and the country.

ORLANDO TEA PARTY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, on March 21, 2009, hundreds of Central Floridians gathered in Orlando to express their grievances regarding the recent actions of their federal officials in dramatically expanding our federal spending, federal deficit, and federal programs. As a Representative for Florida's 7th Congressional District it is my honor to present their grievances and declaration.

ORLANDO TEA PARTY DECLARATION MARCH 21, 2009

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for like minded patriotic Americans to rally as one against the powers that threaten to alter, diminish and destroy this country we love, proper respect for the opinions of our fellow citizens requires that we should clearly state the grievances that impel us to gather at this great Orlando Tea Party to protest peacefully, but passionately in the tradition of our forefathers whose Boston Tea Party resonated around the world.

The history of the present government of these United States is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having the effect of establishing an unacceptable tyranny over the citizens of these states. Let the facts be selfevident and speak for themselves, and let these grievances be heard in the halls of power in 2009, just as they were heard in the palace of King George III when they thundered forth from the text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

BE it resolved on this 21st Day of March in the year 2009 at the great Orlando Tea Party on the shore of Lake Eola in Orlando, FL, that just as our forefathers at the Boston Tea Party protested tyranny at the hands of the British Crown, and taxation without representation, we hereby raise our voices against the arrogance and the ruinous policies of our own government . . . a government that ignores the will of "We the People" . . . a government that drowns us in debt . . . a government that forsakes the free enterprise system that had driven the engine of the greatest economy on earth, in favor of a relentless march toward socialism designed to subvert the work of the individual and encourage intrusion of government into all aspects of our lives.

And so, let the word go forth from this time and place that we are proud, freedom loving Americans who cherish individual liberty, our Constitution, and all this Nation has stood for over 233 years. We love our country and we are here to take it back!

Let us hereby resolve that we have had enough of massive government driven bailouts using our money! To our elected leaders we say, stop spending money we do not have! This is not your money! This is our money, and we demand you stop this madness! We have had enough of so-called economic stimulus plans that falsely promise we can spend ourselves back to prosperity.

We have had enough of trillion dollar spending schemes being passed without congress or "WE The People" Knowing what's in them. This is taxation without deliberation and we will not tolerate it! We have had enough of the out of control government spending that is mortgaging our future and threatening our very way of life!

We have had enough of both major parties being arrogant and unresponsive to the people they were elected to serve. We have had enough of seeing money taken unfairly from honest, hardworking Americans through excessive taxation and redistributed to people who have not earned the money. We have had enough of capitalism being targeted as the problem instead of the solution.

And, we have had enough of government being called the solution, when government is the problem! In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions to our elected officials have been answered only

by repeated injury, in fact they have been answered at all. A government so arrogant and unresponsive to its people is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. We therefore, the people of the United States of America, in general congress assembled here, on the shore of Lake Eola in Orlando, Florida, on this 21st day of March, in the year 2009, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of this city and this Nation, solemnly publish and declare that we are a free people, in this free and independent state, and we have the power and the right to demand that our government cease serving its own interest, and whatever destructive political and ideological agendas it is pursuing, and become the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to which we are entitled as Americans. And this for the support of this declaration, what a firm reliance on divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Madam Speaker: Today, July 14th, I presented this declaration on the steps of the U.S. House and unfurled a scroll containing thousands of citizens' signatures in support of this declaration.

INTRODUCING THE COMPLETE AND PERMANENT PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION ACT OF 2009

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Complete and Permanent Property Tax Deduction Act of 2009. This bill makes the property tax deduction, which is scheduled to expire this year, permanent and removes all limitations on the deduction.

The Complete and Permanent Property Tax Deduction Act will help millions of Americans who struggle with high property taxes. Making the property tax deduction permanent will especially benefit senior citizens, whose homes often are the major part of their wealth, and young families struggling to cope with the costs of owning new homes. I respectfully urge my colleagues to help ensure all homeowners can continue to take advantage of the property tax deduction by cosponsoring this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 492, 494, 495, 499, 500, 501, 502, 508, 514, 515, 517, 518, 520, 521, 524, 525, & 529, I was absent from the House due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA-

OF CALIFORNIA-

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3082, the "Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010." This bill will fund our nation's military construction projects and veterans' benefits for Fiscal Year 2010.

While I supported this bill, and what it provides for our military and veterans, it is unfortunate the Democratic leadership in Congress refused to allow debate on many amendments including an amendment proposed by Rep. CONNIE MACK that would have reduced the labor costs of each construction project funded by this legislation.

Currently, federal construction projects which cost more than \$2,000 must follow Davis-Bacon wage requirements. The Davis-Bacon Act requires employers to pay workers at least the "locally prevailing wage," as determined by the Department of Labor. Of the reports investigated by the Office of Inspector General, 100% of the wage surveys, used to set the "prevailing wage," contained one or more errors.

According to the Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University, Davis-Bacon wage requirements over-estimate wages, inflating construction costs by almost 10%. This amounts to \$8.6 billion taxpayer waste per year. For our military and veterans, this is billions that could have been used to update the Vietnam-era quanzi-huts still in use at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base or to fix the Post 9/11 GI bill error that will unfairly reduce California veterans' education benefits.

In this time of fiscal uncertainty, Congress must set priorities and spend wisely. Shutting out debate on an archaic measure that unnecessarily increases cost moves our nation in the wrong direction.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, FY2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Requesting Member: Congresswoman McMORRIS RODGERS
Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Water and Related Resources
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Columbia Basin Development League
Address of Requesting Entity: 8582 Road K, SW; Royal City, WA 99357

Description of Request: Provide an addition of \$3,000,000 for expansion of Project infrastructure to allow delivery of Project water to eligible lands. The Project aims to avoid ecological disaster by preserving the remaining